(b) the affects on efficiency due to decrease in number of employees in the Department;

(c) whether according to Report of CAG business of Postal Department has halved in the last five years;

(d) the loss occurred to Postal Department in 2005-06 and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to coverup the losses and probable amount of profit/loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The decrease in the number of employees in the Department of Posts during the last three years is as under:

Year (as on 31st March)	Actual Strength of Employees	Decrease in number of Employees
2003	262752	–
2004	250714	12038
2005	246678	4036
2006	234187	12491

(b) Wherever the shortage of staff is faced, the work is managed by redistribution and combination of duties. Also computerization and rationalization, of procedure has helped in smoothing functioning of the Department. In view of it decrease in number of employees has not affected the efficiency of the Department.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The deficit of the Department for the year 2005-06 is Rs.1209.88 crore. The said deficit is due to the fact that nearly 89 percent of the expenditure is incurred on mandatory items like, salary, pension of staff etc. Apart from it, rates of most of the postal services have not kept pace with the cost of operation. The Department is also providing a host of services as part of Universal Service Obligations as per the policy of the Government.

(e) The Department has been taking steps to increase the revenue through introduction of the new products, market development activities and adoption of customer oriented strategies. Speed Post, Business Post, Express Post, Retail Post etc. as premium services have been consistently growing. The Department of Posts is also using its vast network for retailing of financial products and services agency functions thereby adding to the Department's revenue. Moreover, Department has also included value added money transfer services to its portfolio like instant Money Order Service and International Money Transfer. The amount of deficit during the year 2006-07 is Rs.1249.52 crore and the probable amount of deficit during the year 2007-08 is estimated to be Rs.1473.62 crore.

Licence for broadband wireless services

1851. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecom Regulator had submitted its recommendations on Broadband Wireless Services during 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not taking any action on those recommendations and by when these are likely to be accepted; and

(d) the number of operators who are going to get the licence for the Broadband Wireless Services and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has given its recommendations on spectrum for Broadband Wireless Services. The guidelines for allotment of Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) spectrum are to be formulated taking into account all relevant aspects, including these TRAI recommendations.

Submarine cable landing station

1852. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3055 given in Rajya Sabha on 3rd May, 2007 and state:

(a) the name of the consultant appointed for the project;

(b) whether the consultant has given its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, by when the report would be given; and

(e) the tentative time schedule to start the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) M/s Datawave Limited of UK was appointed as phase-I consultant to examine feasibility/viability of the project and Return on Investment. M/s Axiom of France has been appointed as phase-II consultant for providing assistance till the completion of the project.

(b) to (d) M/s Datawave Limited of UK have submitted the report. M/s Axiom have also submitted a detailed analysis of Indian landing stations along with its recommendations. The Desktop study of the proposed cable route is being done in parallel by M/s Axiom.

(e) The tentative time schedule to start the project is January-February, 2008.

Global auction of 3G spectrum

1853. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: